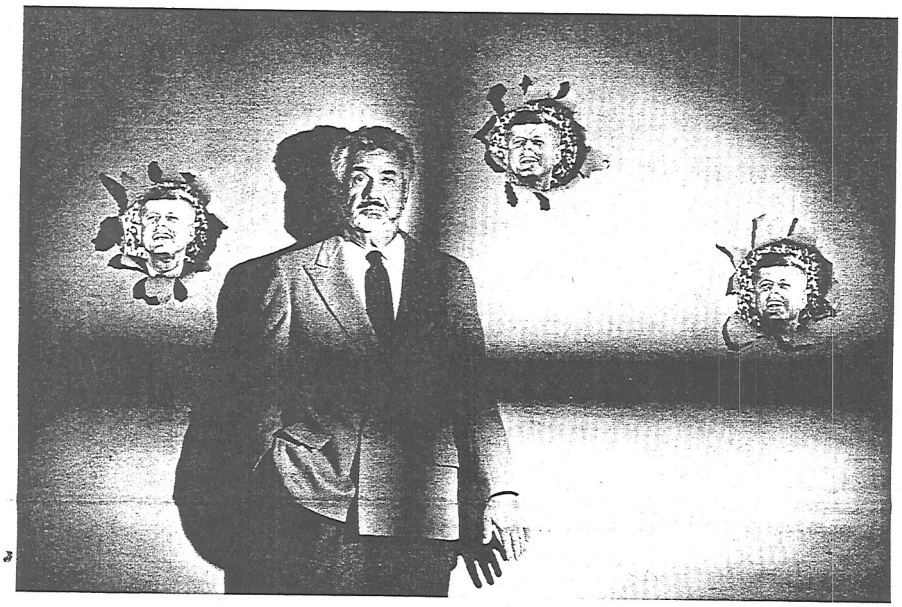
MARALYN LOIS POLAK

Interview



MARK LANE

Deep in his plots

Kennedy's murder, says the assassination-conspiracy maven, was the beginning of this nation's hijacking.

IT'S YOUR COUNTRY and you should cry if you want to, because while you were out tooling around in your Chevrolet a few decades ago, somebody HIJACKED the U.S.A., and no, our long national nightmare is not nearly over, folks. So pull up a chair. We're talking plots with assassination-conspiracy maven Mark Lane, the bearded, intense, 65-year-old Washington, D.C., attorney, of *Rush to Judgment* fame, who's still so convinced, and so convincing, we're getting paranoid enough to believe everyone's out to get us, too.

Prepare yourself for Mark Lane's America. Plot-wise, it has more twists, turns, labyrinths and revelations than a John LeCarre thriller. The CIA killed President Kennedy, no matter how Oliver Stone's film shifts the emphasis. The Warren Commission Report is false, except one conclusion: that Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald. JFK's brain has disappeared. Earl Warren was pressured to prevaricate in the belief that 40 million Americans would die in a nuclear holocaust otherwise. The FBI murdered the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and possibly Robert Kennedy also.

The publicly bumbling Gerald Ford was briefly an FBI stooge and information pipeline; as a Republican congressman serving on the Warren Commission, he popped confidential papers into his briefcase for FBI perusal. Despite disinformation to the contrary, George Bush apparently served as a CIA operative involved in the Bay of Pigs fiasco. The CIA has Nazi origins in an ex-Gestapo agent who helped run it. Avuncular Walter Cronkite was only masquerading as the Most Trusted Man in America; he called the Warren Commission quest "the greatest investigation in the history of Western civilization." Lee Harvey Oswald was not working for Castro or the KGB, but U.S. intelligence. E. Howard Hunt apparently is the only adult in America who isn't clear on where he was Nov. 22, 1963. . . .

"I knew we were being denied basic information. I never knew who killed President Kennedy; I knew there are very powerful forces that did not want us to get the answers. I felt I was there pretty much alone. Nobody else was trying. And when I got the information, my desire was just to get as much as I could and share it as widely as I could," he declares after an SRO appearance at Robin's Books on 13th Street to discuss *Plausible Denial*, his chilling, meticulously developed indictment of the CIA.

"To many people who just know about me through the news media, probably I'm some kind of nut on the fringe. To the people in Langley, Va., I'm a menace, and I wouldn't mind having that as my epitaph on my tombstone," he chuckles dryly. "To some people who are familiar with the facts, I represent a force that will not stop, no matter what the obstacles are. I'll continue until everything's known.

"I've been practicing law 40 years and never saw a greater deception on the American people than Arlen Specter's, whose 'Magic Bullet Theory,'" he sneers, "was the mainstay of the Warren Commission report, and who has risen to the point where he can now harass women on network TV."

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY J. KYLE KEENER

Interview

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Who's really governing America? "I don't know. George Bush's complete flip-flops on every issue indicate he's really not making the decisions, I think. Other people are making the decisions. I don't know who they are," he shrugs, then later warms to some speculative notions. "You want to hear a disaster-eye view of what took place in America? OK, it's not necessarily true, but it's something to think about. Richard Nixon says he was overthrown by the CIA. Now, it is the same people," he pauses.

Nixon says this? "Yes, in Haldeman's book. Many amazing things have been publicized and reviewed, in fact, without any of the important aspects of the book ever being brought to anyone's attention," he says. "... All right, so let's say Nixon is right. There you have these people bungling that job, and Nixon was finished. The next one we have is Carter maybe chancing re-election. And then we have the October Surprise, if it happened — I think maybe it did."

The strongest evidence it did, he says, "is that the Republicans in the Senate don't want to look into it. Why not, if it's going to vindicate Bush and Reagan? What could be more embarrassing for the Democrats, spend six, seven, eight million dollars on nonsense, they'll be exposed; why don't they want it investigated? I think Gary Sick and others make some good points about it. But if it's true, then Carter was not re-elected because of Reagan, Bush and the CIA.

"So you have Nixon removed, Carter not re-elected, Kennedy assassinated, Ford there in the interim causing no damage to anybody. And now we have the former director of the CIA as president. It's unthinkable. It's like Beria [the late head of the secret police] running the Soviet Union. Now we have Bush. And of course Bush has lied about it," Lane maintains, citing a Nation piece by Joseph McBride.

Why is it unthinkable? "It's unthinkable because, I mean, you go from head of an intelligence organization to be an *undertaker*! You don't go to be president of the United States. I mean, these people have done outrageous things, the best of them — that's the job: You lie. You cheat. You overthrow governments. You plan assassinations of people overseas. You devalue currency. You buy trade unions. That's your resume. How does that fit you to be a diplomat? A president? It doesn't.

"It's unthinkable that a former director of an intelligence organization anywhere in the world would become a head of state. It's two different resumes. Well, I think what George Bush has done is he made it seem as if he just passed through the CIA for a short period of time — he [said he] was a diplomat, he never had any real contact with them, that's what he testified to. That's what members of the Senate said. And we were a little surprised when he became appointed because he said he had no contact with the CIA.

"I think that's all untrue. I think Bush was involved in the Bay of Pigs, and Bush was with the Central Intelligence Agency at the time of the Kennedy assassination. Which is more than a decade before he acknowledges an association with the CIA. Well, deep cover is one thing, but when you run for president, you cannot maintain that deep cover to the American people. They're entitled to the facts. Otherwise, it's no democracy at all. They don't know who they're voting for. So I think George Bush has lied about his resume. The American people are entitled to know what he did before he became a candidate for the presidency. And we don't know."

Even Bush's apparent domestic ineptitude may actually be premeditated. "I think George Bush knows exactly what he's doing. And I think either he developed the idea he was a wimp or he allowed it to develop when somebody called him one. He's no wimp; he's the former head of the CIA. That's a job for a killer, not a wimp. And I think he does know precisely what he's doing. He may not be able to control his destiny, because I think the economic situation is such that if people are out of a job, they lose their car and their house, the number-one question on the agenda for them is not, Will there be a special prosecutor appointed to find out who killed President Kennedy?, but, Can I get a job? Obviously.

"And that makes sense. He may not be able to control the economy, and he may be in a lot of trouble. This is a country [where], with all the wealth we have had and still have, for families to be living on the streets, I mean, is absolutely unacceptable. And he knows this. But he's satisfied to allow it," he says. "I mean, it's OK to talk about Watergate and a third-rate burglary after the fact, it's one thing. But what we're talking about, what I've been talking about for 28 years is too serious to raise and not deal with.

"If the CIA killed President Kennedy, this is not the Teapot Dome Scandal, as serious as that was. This is not Iran-Contra, as serious as that was. This is something SO MONUMENTAL it reveals we have had a pretense at being a democracy. Why have we been lied to? Who gave those orders? We know something captured the spirit and imagination of this country, we know there was the beginning of something in 1960, and now it's gone. This is too big, much too big to deal with unless we do it honestly. This has to be resolved. If we don't, we'll go on the way we are," Mark Lane warns, "a nation without a soul." □

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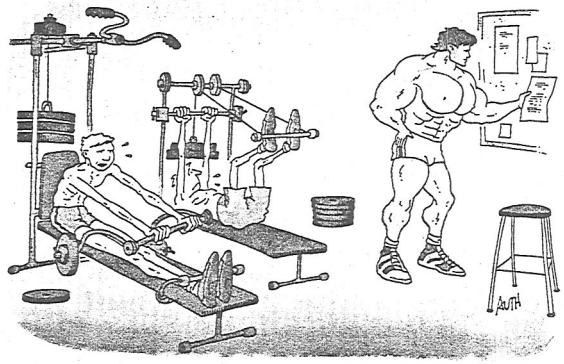

"He can't be working out on THESE machines . . ."